

BEST COPY
AVAILABLE

Sanitized - Approved For Release - CIA-RDP75-00149R0001

NEW JERSEY, N.J.
NEWS

1 - 205,716
2 - 127,240

FEB 16 1967

N.J. Students 'Shocked'

By WILLIAM DOOLITTLE

Revelations that the National Students' Association has been receiving funds from the Central Intelligence Agency have shaken the New Jersey campus branches of the NSA down to the roots.

The question in the minds of the state's NSA leaders is: "Can the organization survive this?"

Chairman of the New Jersey Region of the NSA, Frank Nero of North Plainfield, a junior at Newark State College, said yesterday that he was "shocked and appalled to learn of such an affiliation."

At Princeton, university students active in the NSA expressed surprise and regret.

Robert Burdick, a Princeton junior from Oak Park, Ill., and a former NSA coordinator at Princeton, said, "I was not aware of it—only two or three officers each year knew about it. It is an embarrassing situation."

"The covert relationship has to be viewed negatively," Burdick said. "But it can be justified if that was the only way to get money and there were no strings attached."

Mike Haroz, a Princeton senior who went to Tanzania on an NSA-sponsored trip, commented, "The revelation of a CIA tie came as a complete shock to me."

Frank G. Strasburger, one of three Princeton representatives to the national convention of the NSA, said "I knew that the NSA was strapped for money. But it did surprise me that a group with the idealism it professes would enter into any covert deal."

Thomas Heim, president of the Student Council at Seton Hall University and the college's representative to the NSA, said he was "vehemently opposed" to use of the NSA as a puppet, but added that he was more opposed to communism.

Probe Subversion

"If the President and the CIA deemed it necessary to investigate Communist subversion ac-

tion through the NSA," then favor it."

Heim said that he believed some of the CIA funds have been used across the country to stop the spread of communism on campuses. He said he believed some funds were used for this purpose in New Jersey, but would not say where.

According to statements made by national leaders of the NSA, all of the CIA funds were used to support foreign activities of the NSA.

There are 10 colleges in New Jersey affiliated with the National Students' Association. They are: Rutgers, Douglass and Madison-Drew, Bloomfield College, Newark State, Princeton, Seton Hall and St. Elizabeth's.

Rumblings

Nero said "there have been some rumblings on many of the campuses," but thought the students would wait to learn all of the facts before voting to sever connection with the NSA.

He acknowledged, however, that the disclosures of CIA support may have an immediately harmful effect on the NSA on two campuses which were to vote on affiliation this year—St. Peter's College in Jersey City and Glassboro State College.

"It hasn't done us any good," he commented.

Susan Morris, NSA coordinator on the Douglass College campus, was so upset by the news that she wanted to meet with a dean "to straighten out my thoughts" before commenting.

However, she said, "I don't like what I see."

"Can't See Reasons"

Hugh Hansen, chairman of the NSA committee on the men's campuses at Rutgers said, "I hate to see the CIA involved in this. I can't see the reasons."

Hansen, who helped fight off a right wing attack on the NSA last year at Rutgers, said he saw no immediate move to break off with the NSA, but he conceded that the CIA affiliation will be the major topic of discussion at the student council meeting tonight.

A college can break with the NSA either by majority vote of the Student council or majority vote of the student body.

Nero, whose job gives him supervision of the NSA groups in the state, said he did not believe any CIA funds had come into New Jersey to fight Communist or left wing groups, but he refused to say whether or not the funds might have been used for such purposes in other states.

Nero said that he felt it was "dishonest and intolerable for any democratic organization to foster such an affiliation."

He said that the job remaining to NSA leaders, like himself, was to "cut out the cancer and see if we can improve the NSA."

Nero said he definitely thought he and others active in NSA affairs had been "duped."

He said that if the NSA were to regain the faith of students, it would have to change its ways of reporting the funds it received.

He said the source of all grants would have to be thoroughly investigated before they were accepted. Asked how a group is to know if the funds are coming from the CIA when they are funneled through reputable foundations, Nero sighed, "They have placed us in a real bind."

All the students concurred that they felt the CIA had severely compromised them.

CPYRIGHT

CPYRIGHT

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000100550016-7